SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR TRANSPARENT EXPANSION AND MANAGEMENT OF ONLINE ELECTRONIC STORAGE

ABSTRACT

An electronic storage expansion technique comprising a set of methods, systems and computer program products or processes that enable information appliances to transparently increase native storage capacities and share storage elements, and data, with other information appliances. The resulting environment is referred to as a Home Shared Object Architecture (HSOA). Information appliances are supplied with set a Storage Abstraction Layer (SAL) processes that enable the transparent attachment and utilization of additional Storage elements. Addition of these storage elements is utilized to transparently expand the capacity of the native drive elements. Added storage elements may be attached through the use of a home network; an external storage interface; or internal cables. Access to these resulting, logical storage elements (logical storage element reflecting the virtual drive configuration resulting from the combination of native drive and additional storage element) may, in turn, be shared amongst any HSOA enabled clients.